



BLOCK PARTY



GOP blocks bipartisan probe of deadly Jan. 6 riot at Capitol

In this file photo from Wednesday Jan. 6, 2021, Trump supporters beset a police barrier at the Capitol in Washington.

Associated Press
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GOP blocks bipartisan probe of deadly Jan. 6 riot at Capitol

From Front

By **MARY CLARE JALONICK**
and **LISA MASCARO**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen-

ate Republicans on Friday blocked creation of a bipartisan panel to study the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol in a show of party loyalty to former President Donald Trump, aiming to shift the political focus away from the violent insurrection by his GOP supporters.

Instead, it's now likely that questions about who should bear responsibility for the attack will continue to be filtered through a partisan lens rather than addressed by an independent panel modeled after the commission that investigated the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

The Senate vote was 54-35 — six short of the 60 needed to take up a House-passed bill that would have formed a 10-member commission evenly split between the two parties. It came a day after emotional appeals from police who fought with the rioters, the family of an officer who died afterward and lawmakers in both parties who fled Capitol chambers as the rioters broke in.

Six Republicans voted with Democrats to move forward. Eleven senators — nine Republicans and two Democrats — missed the vote, an unusually high number of absentees for one of the highest-profile votes of the year. Some said they had scheduling conflicts.

It was the first successful use of a Senate filibuster in the Biden presidency and revived talk of doing way with the time-honored procedure typically used to kill major legislation. It requires 60 votes to move ahead, rather than a simple majority in the 100-member Senate.

Though the Jan. 6 commission bill passed the House earlier this month with the support of almost three dozen Republicans, most GOP senators said they believe the commission would eventually be used against



The Capitol Dome looms behind the Peace Monument statue in Washington, Friday, May 28, 2021, as the Senate tries to finish its work going into the Memorial Day recess with Republican leaders insisting they will block a commission on the Jan. 6 insurrection by a mob loyal to former President Donald Trump.

them politically. And Trump, who still has a firm hold on the party, has called it a "Democrat trap."

Speaking to his Republican colleagues, Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said after the vote they were "trying to sweep the horrors of that day under the rug" out of loyalty to Trump.

He left open the possibility of another vote in the future on establishing a bipartisan commission, declaring, "The events of Jan. 6 will be investigated."

Friday's vote was emblematic of the profound mistrust between the two parties since the siege, especially among Republicans, as some in the party have downplayed the violence and defended the rioters who supported Trump and his false insistence that the election was stolen from him.

The attack was the worst on the Capitol in 200 years and interrupted the certification of Democrat Joe Biden's win over Trump. The protesters constructed a mock gallows in front of the Capitol and called for the hanging of Vice President Mike Pence, who was

overseeing the certification of the presidential vote. Lawmakers hid on the floor of the House as they tried to break in, and senators evacuated their chamber mere minutes before it was ransacked.

Four of the rioters died that day, and Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick collapsed and died afterward of what authorities said were natural causes. Dozens of police officers were wounded, some with permanent injuries, and two police officers took their own lives in the days after the riots.

While initially saying he was open to the idea of the commission, Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell turned firmly against it in recent days. He has said he believes the panel's investigation would be partisan despite the even split among party members.

McConnell, who once said Trump was responsible for provoking the mob attack on the Capitol, said of Democrats, "They'd like to continue to litigate the former president, into the future."

Still, six in his caucus defied

him, arguing that an independent look is needed. A seventh, Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania, said he missed the vote because of a family commitment but would have also voted to move forward with the legislation.

Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski said Thursday evening that she needs to know more about what happened that day and why.

"Truth is hard stuff, but we've got a responsibility to it," she told reporters. "We just can't pretend that nothing bad happened, or that people just got too excitable. Something bad happened. And it's important to lay that out."

Of her colleagues opposing the commission, Murkowski said some are concerned that "we don't want to rock the boat." GOP opposition to the bipartisan panel has revived Democratic pressure to do away with the filibuster. With the Senate evenly split 50-50, Democrats need support of 10 Republicans to move to the commission bill.

The Republicans' political arguments over the violent siege — which is still raw for

many in the Capitol, almost five months later — have frustrated not only Democrats and some of their Republican colleagues but also those who fought off the rioters. Sicknick's mother, girlfriend and two police officers who battled the rioters alongside him went office to office and asked Republicans to support the commission.

Michael Fanone, a Metropolitan Police Department officer who responded to the attack, joined Sicknick's family on Capitol Hill Thursday. In between meetings with Republican senators, he said a commission is "necessary for us to heal as a nation from the trauma that we all experienced that day." Fanone has described being dragged down the Capitol steps by rioters who shocked him with a stun gun and beat him.

Sandra Garza, the partner of Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick, who collapsed and died after battling the rioters, said of the Republican senators, "You know they are here today and with their families and comfortable because of the actions of law enforcement that day."

Video of the rioting shows two men spraying Sicknick and another officer with a chemical, but the Washington medical examiner said he suffered a stroke and died from natural causes.

Many Democrats are warning that if Republicans are willing to use the filibuster to stop an arguably popular measure, it shows the limits of trying to broker compromises, particularly on bills related to election reforms or other aspects of the Democrats' agenda.

For now, though, Democrats don't have the votes to change the rule. West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin and Arizona Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, both moderate Democrats, have said they want to preserve the filibuster.

Biden, asked about the commission at a stop in Cleveland, said Thursday, "I can't imagine anyone voting against" it. □

Associated Press

Travel numbers climb as Americans hit the road for holiday

By DAVID KOENIG

Associated Press

Americans hit the road in near-record numbers at the start of the Memorial Day weekend, as their eagerness to break free from coronavirus confinement overcame higher prices for flights, gasoline and hotels. More than 1.8 million people went through U.S. airports on Thursday, and the number was widely expected to cross the 2 million threshold over the long holiday weekend — that would be the highest mark since early March 2020.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas warned travelers to expect long lines at airports, and on Friday he pleaded with Americans to show some patience.

The rise in travel appears to be fueled by an increase in people vaccinated against COVID-19 and also by an improving economy. The U.S. Commerce Department said consumer spending increased in April, although not as much as in March, providing more evidence that consumers are driving a recovery from last year's pandemic recession. The arrival of Memorial Day coincides with some states eliminating their remaining pandemic restrictions amid improving case, hospitalization and death num-



Gas prices are displayed as a jet descends to land at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, Wednesday, May 26, 2021, in Cleveland.

bers. The mask mandate in Massachusetts goes away Saturday, and Virginia is easing all distancing and capacity restrictions Friday. President Joe Biden is traveling to Virginia to celebrate the unofficial start of summer and its accomplishments in battling the virus at a time when the state of more than 8 million people is averaging only 360 cases a day.

At Miami International Airport, officials are anticipating about 115,000 passengers per day over the six-day period that ends June 1. Spokesman Greg Chin said the airport numbers are equaling pre-pandemic levels. It's a similar story in

Orlando, where airport traffic is reaching 90% of pre-pandemic levels and people are flocking to theme parks that have recently loosened restrictions.

AAA expects a 60% jump in travel over the same holiday weekend last year, with 37 million Americans traveling at least 50 miles from home, most of them in cars. The auto club and insurer made that forecast even with gasoline prices at their highest levels in seven years — the national average is above \$3 a gallon for regular.

Prices for rental cars are up sharply too — if you can find one — after rental companies culled their fleets to sur-

vive last year's deep slump in travel.

"My mother-in-law called me on a vacation and said, 'Hey, can you get me a rental car?' I said, 'No,'" said Jordan Staab, president of SmarterTravel Media. "Demand is up 500% since January and it's tough to get a rental car right now, so plan ahead as much as you possibly can." Hotels and other lodging in beach and mountain areas are expecting bigger crowds than those in urban areas. Lou Carrier, the president of Distinctive Hospitality Group, said the company's two hotels in tourist towns in Connecticut have seen a jump in

bookings since the state loosened its face-mask requirements two weeks ago, but occupancy is still only around 20% at its three hotels in Boston.

Hotel room rates nationally jumped 9% in April after an 8% rise in March, and airfares soared 10% in April, according to the latest available figures from the Commerce Department.

That's not stopping people from getting on planes. The Transportation Security Administration has screened nearly 1.6 million people a day this month, up from 224,000 a day in May 2020. Most of those people are traveling for vacations or visiting family and friends in the United States. Airline executives say domestic leisure travel is back to pre-pandemic levels — Delta Air Lines President Glen Hauenstein said this week that bookings are now running ahead of the 2019 pace.

Business travelers and international visitors are still mostly absent, however, and airlines are eager to see that lucrative business return. One proposal for making international travel easier is a so-called vaccine passport — an app that would indicate if a person has been vaccinated or tested against COVID-19. □

Lightfoot sued for limiting interviews to reporters of color

CHICAGO (AP) — A white reporter for a conservative media outlet is suing Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot over her decision to grant interviews at the midpoint of her first term only to journalists of color, saying she discriminated against him because of his race.

Thomas Catenacci and his employer, the Daily Caller News Foundation, argue in the lawsuit that Lightfoot violated their First Amendment rights and Catenacci's right to equal protection by not responding to an interview request on the day of her second anniversary in office or in the

days that followed. The suit was filed Thursday in federal court in Chicago by the conservative organization Judicial Watch.

Lightfoot, who is Chicago's first Black female and first openly gay mayor, said May 19 that she was granting interviews marking the second anniversary of her inauguration on May 20 exclusively to journalists of color. She said it was intended to draw attention to the fact that the City Hall press corps is "overwhelmingly white" and male in a city where white people make up only about one-third of the

population.

Critics of the decision included Fox News host Tucker Carlson, who founded The Daily Caller, and who called Lightfoot "a monster" and racist.

Lightfoot reiterated her position at a May 20 event marking the anniversary, where she also called on media organizations to diversify their staffs.

"The fact that the City Hall press corps is overwhelmingly white, has very little in the way of diversity, is an embarrassment," Lightfoot said. "One day out of 365, I say that I'm going to mark the anniversary of my two



In this Monday, May 10, 2021, file photo, Mayor Lori Lightfoot speaks during a news conference in Chicago.

Associated Press

years in office by giving exclusive one-on-ones to journalists of color, and the world loses its mind."

University of Chicago law professor Geoffrey Stone told the Chicago Tribune he expects the court to

throw out the lawsuit. He noted public officials commonly pick and choose which media outlets to favor, and that Lightfoot said the decision applied to one date and wasn't a blanket policy. □

U.S. to expedite immigration cases of families on border

By AMY TAXIN and ELLIOT SPAGAT

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Families arriving at the U.S. border with Mexico will have their cases fast-tracked in immigration court, the Biden administration said Friday, less than two weeks after it said it was easing pandemic-related restrictions on seeking asylum.

Under the plan, families stopped on the border starting Friday could be placed in expedited proceedings aimed at determining whether they can remain in the United States. Immigration judges would generally decide these cases within 300 days of an initial hearing in 10 cities including New York, Los Angeles and border communities such as El Paso, Texas, and San Diego, the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security said in a statement.

It isn't the first time U.S. officials have sought to expedite the immigration cases of families arriving on the southwest border. The Trump and Obama administrations previously created dockets aimed at quickly deciding these cases in the immigration courts, which are notoriously backlogged and can take years to resolve cases. The latest iteration, which



In this March 28, 2021 file photo Migrants from Guatemala and Honduras are questioned by a Border Patrol agent after being smuggled on an inflatable raft in Roma, Texas.

Associated Press

the administration is calling a "dedicated docket," lets judges grant continuances "for good cause," according to instructions they received. It calls the 300-day timeline "an internal goal." The announcement comes as President Joe Biden is under mounting pressure to lift pandemic-related restrictions on seeking asylum at the border that were put in place by the Trump administration in March 2020. Under the rules, citizens of Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador are typically expelled to Mexi-

co within two hours without any opportunity to seek asylum or other humanitarian protections.

Biden exempted unaccompanied children but about one of every three people who arrive in families are still subject to them, as is nearly every single adult.

Last week, the administration took steps to ease the rules and agreed to eventually allow 250 people a day through border crossings to seek refuge in the United States.

But immigrant advocates

said creating dockets to speed asylum seekers through the courts isn't fair and in the past has created delays for other migrants already waiting years for their cases to be heard.

Eleanor Acer, senior director for refugee protection at Human Rights First, urged the Biden administration to roll back Trump administration measures that make it difficult for Central American migrants fleeing violence to qualify for humanitarian protection in the United States.

"U.S. asylum proceedings

cannot be considered fair when the Biden administration continues to blatantly violate U.S. refugee laws and treaties," she said in a statement.

The Border Patrol had more than 170,000 encounters in April, its highest tally since March 2001, including 50,000 with people traveling in families. Many are repeat crossers because getting expelled carries no legal consequences.

Friday's announcement gives families at the border a higher priority than other cases in an immigration court system with about 1.3 million pending cases. Attorney General Merrick Garland said the effort aligns with his goal of immigration courts deciding cases "promptly and fairly."

The National Association of Immigration Judges is studying the proposal, said Dana Marks, an immigration judge and the group's executive vice president. She said the group was not consulted about the plan. Immigrants were issued deportation orders in more than 90 percent of the cases that were decided in the Trump administration's family unit dockets, according to statistics from the Justice Department's Executive Office for Immigration Review, which runs immigration courts. □

U.S. Coast Guard continues search for 10 Cubans missing at sea

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — A search for 10 Cubans missing from a boat capsize continued Friday, a day after the U.S. Coast Guard rescued eight other passengers and



In this image released by the U.S. Coast Guard, a Coast Guard crew rescues eight people from the water approximately 16 miles south of Key West, Florida, on Thursday, May 27, 2021.

Associated Press

pulled two bodies from the water. The group was first spotted on routine patrol 18 miles (29 kilometers) southwest of Key West, Florida, on Thursday. Crews searched overnight for 10 men, continuing and ex-

panding the area Friday, officials said. The vessel sank after it capsized, so it was not clear what type of craft the group used to travel across the Florida Straits. The survivors were transferred to a Coast Guard vessel to receive food, water and medical attention. They were medically screened and remain aboard a Coast Guard cutter, officials said. Cubans and other foreign nationals found at sea are generally repatriated, but Coast Guard spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Jason Neiman said the next step "has not been determined."

Capt. Adam Chamie, Coast Guard Commander

of Sector Key West, said the group of survivors included two women and six men. They were spotted by a vessel patrolling the area off the Florida Keys.

"They were staying on top of the water, using their arms and legs for power," he said. "They were in need of help."

Other agencies, including the U.S. Navy, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, have joined the search.

Coast Guard crews have interdicted 308 Cubans at sea since October, 200 of them in the past two months. Only 49 Cubans were interdicted by the

agency between October 2019 and September 2020, when the coronavirus pandemic halted travel and prompted lockdowns.

The figure this year is on pace to surpass the 313 interdictions between October 2018 and September 2019 and already higher than those seen in the year prior to that. But the levels are still much lower than the thousands who were arriving before January 2017. That's when President Barack Obama halted the United States' "wet foot, dry foot" policy, which granted residency to all Cubans who set foot on dry land a year after their arrival. □

As Russia tensions simmer, NATO conducts massive war games

By LORNE COOK

Associated Press

ABOARD HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH (AP) — As tensions

with Russia simmer, thousands of NATO troops, several warships and dozens of aircraft are taking part in military exercises stretching across the Atlantic, through Europe and into the Black Sea region.

The war games, dubbed Steadfast Defender 21, are aimed at simulating the 30-nation military organization's response to an attack on any one of its members. It will test NATO's ability to deploy troops from America and keep supply lines open.

Already in recent years, the United States and its allies have deployed troops and equipment in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland to try to reassure those members neighboring Russia that their partners will ride to the rescue should they come under attack. Russia's decision last month to send thousands of troops to the border area with Ukraine has raised concern at the military alliance, which launched one of its biggest ever defense



Military personnel direct F-35 jets and helicopters on the deck of the aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth as it participates in the NATO Steadfast Defender 2021 exercise off the coast of Portugal, Thursday, May 27, 2021.

spending initiatives after Russian troops annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014. Top NATO brass insist that the military exercises, involving some 9,000 troops from 20 nations, are not aimed at Russia specifically, but they focus on the Black Sea region, where Russia stands accused of blocking the free navigation of ships.

NATO Secretary-General

Jens Stoltenberg says the exercises send an important message to any potential adversary: "NATO is ready."

"NATO is there to defend all our allies, and this exercise sends a message about our ability to transport a large number of troops, equipment across the Atlantic, across Europe and also to project maritime power," Stoltenberg told The Associ-

ated Press aboard a British aircraft carrier off the coast of Portugal.

The ship, the HMS Queen Elizabeth, is the pride of the British Navy. It's making its maiden voyage and carrying 18 F-35 jets: the first ever deployment of so many of the 5th generation planes aboard an aircraft carrier. The ship's presence, part of a 6-7 month deployment that will take it south past

Associated Press

India, through Southeast Asia to the Philippines Sea, is aimed in part at restoring Britain's tarnished image as a major global power since it left the European Union.

Adorned with high-tech U.S. jets and flanked by warships from other NATO countries, the carrier strike force also stands as an important symbol of unity as the world's biggest security organization tries to recover from four tumultuous years under the Trump administration.

Stoltenberg will chair a NATO summit in Brussels on June 14 with current U.S. President Joe Biden and his counterparts keen to usher in a new era of trans-Atlantic cooperation, as troops leave its longest-ever mission in Afghanistan while tensions with Russia, and increasingly China, mount.

The war games tie in two new NATO command centers, one in Norfolk, Virginia; the other in Ulm, Germany. Part of the focus of its first phase was to protect the undersea cables that carry masses of commercial and communications data between the U.S. and Europe. □

Frenchman killed after stabbing, shooting 3 police officers

By ANGELA CHARLTON

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — A man with severe schizophrenia who had been on a watch list for Islamic radicalism stabbed a police officer at her station Friday in western France and shot two other officers before police killed him, authorities said. The slain suspect was a Frenchman in his 40s who had been on a watch list for Islamic radicalism because of his "rigorous" religious practices, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said. The assailant had recently been released from prison and was under monitoring by psychiatric services, he said.

The three officers were wounded but none is in life-threatening condition, the minister said.

The motive for the violence in the Nantes suburb of La Chapelle-sur-Erdre was unclear, but Darmanin told reporters at the scene that the man "clearly wanted to attack police."

The attacker was born in France and did not have

any past convictions for terrorism-related crimes, Darmanin said.

The assailant, who lived in La Chapelle-sur-Erdre, entered the police station Friday morning saying he had a car problem, Mayor Fabrice Roussel said.



Police officer and officials gather at the police station in La Chapelle-sur-Erdre, France, Friday, May 28, 2021.

Associated Press

He then stabbed the first police officer inside the station, apparently took her gun and fled, Darmanin said. The officer was wounded in the leg and hand.

French police deployed helicopters, search dogs and more than 200 officers to find the suspect, and closed nearby schools and stores. When he was located, he fired on officers trying to arrest him, Darmanin said.

The suspect was gravely wounded in an ensuing shootout, and died Friday afternoon of his injuries, according to a police official. The official, who was not authorized to be publicly named, said authorities are not searching for any accomplices.

French President Emman-

uel Macron, on a visit to South Africa, called for "all efforts to clarify the circumstances" of the attack and to better protect France.

Police and ambulances blocked roads in the normally quiet, residential area after the stabbing. Domestic security and attacks on police are a big political issue ahead of regional elections next month and France's presidential election next year. Two police employees have been killed in France in recent weeks. One was an administrative official stabbed to death inside her police station near Paris in what authorities are investigating as an Islamic extremist attack. The other was a drug squad officer shot to death in the southern city of Avignon. □

Plague of ravenous, destructive mice tormenting Australians

By **ROD McGUIRK**

Associated Press

BOGAN GATE, Australia

(AP) — At night, the floors of sheds vanish beneath carpets of scampering mice. Ceilings come alive with the sounds of scratching. One family blamed mice chewing electrical wires for their house burning down. Vast tracts of land in Australia's New South Wales state are being threatened by a mouse plague that the state government describes as "absolutely unprecedented." Just how many millions of rodents have infested the agricultural plains across the state is guesswork.

"We're at a critical point now where if we don't significantly reduce the number of mice that are in plague proportions by spring, we are facing an absolute economic and social crisis in rural and regional New South Wales," Agriculture Minister Adam Marshall said this month. Bruce Barnes said he is taking a gamble by planting crops on his family farm near the central New South



Mice scurry around stored grain on a farm near Tottenham, Australia on May 19, 2021.

Associated Press

Wales town of Bogan Gate. "We just sow and hope," he said.

The risk is that the mice will maintain their numbers through the Southern Hemisphere winter and devour the wheat, barley and canola before it can be harvested.

NSW Farmers, the state's top agricultural associa-

tion, predicts the plague will wipe more than 1 billion Australian dollars (\$775 million) from the value of the winter crop.

The state government has ordered 5,000 liters (1,320 gallons) of the banned poison Bromadiolone from India. The federal government regulator has yet to approve emergency ap-

plications to use the poison on the perimeters of crops. Critics fear the poison will kill not only mice but also animals that feed on them, including wedge-tail eagles and family pets.

"We're having to go down this path because we need something that is super strength, the equivalent of napalm to just blast these

mice into oblivion," Marshall said.

The plague is a cruel blow to farmers in Australia's most populous state who have been battered by fires, floods and pandemic disruptions in recent years, only to face the new scourge of the introduced house mouse, or *Mus musculus*.

The same government-commissioned advisers who have helped farmers cope with the drought, fire and floods are returning to help people deal with the stresses of mice.

The worst comes after dark, when millions of mice that had been hiding and dormant during the day become active.

By day, the crisis is less apparent. Patches of road are dotted with squashed mice from the previous night, but birds soon take the carcasses away. Haystacks are disintegrating due to ravenous rodents that have burrowed deep inside. Upending a sheet of scrap metal lying in a paddock will send a dozen mice scurrying. □

Syria's Assad says reelection empowers him to defeat enemies

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Syrian President Bashar Assad vowed to defeat his enemies no matter how many battles he faces, saying on Friday he feels empowered after being re-elected for a fourth seven-year term. Assad was elected in a predictable landslide Thursday. The

presidential vote was described as illegitimate and a sham by the West and his opponents.

In a nine-minute televised victory speech, Assad said the public had challenged enemies of Syria, and those questioning the election's legitimacy by turning out in large num-

bers to vote for him, calling it a "fighting spirit."

"People choosing me to serve for the next constitutional period is a great honor for me," a bespectacled Assad said. "I am certain that with this fighting spirit we will be able to defeat all our enemies no matter how many the battles are or how hard the road is."

Syria's parliament speaker, Hammoud Sabbagh, announced the final results late Thursday, saying Assad garnered 95.1% of the vote. He said turnout stood at 78.6%, in an election that lasted for 17 hours on Wednesday with no independent monitors.

Syria observers said the official number of participants in the vote over 14 million appeared to exceed the number of Syrians living in government-held areas. In a country ravaged by

a 10-year-old conflict, areas controlled by rebels or Kurdish-led troops did not hold the vote. At least 8 million people, mostly displaced, live in those areas in northwest and northeast Syria. Over 5 million refugees mostly living in neighboring countries have largely refrained from casting their ballots. Syria's pre-war population stood at 23 million.

Assad's victory comes as the country is still devastated by the conflict. Fighting has subsided but the war is not over. An economic crisis is worsening and over 80% of the population lives below the poverty line, while the local currency is in a free fall.

Assad, close associates and government officials are facing widening Western sanctions, added to already existing ones that have escalated as the war

unfolded. European and U.S. governments blame Assad and his aides for most of the war's atrocities.

For the third straight day, there were celebrations Friday in Damascus in rallies that appeared to be organized. They featured demonstrators raising Syrian flags and pictures of Assad, chanting: "God, Syria, and Bashar only." They rallied on election day, after the results, and on Friday before Assad's speech.

The election is likely to offer little change to conditions in Syria. While Assad and his allies Russia and Iran may be seeking a new seal of legitimacy for a president in office since 2000, his re-election is likely to deepen the rift with the West, driving him closer to Russian and Iranian backers as well as China. □



Syrian President Bashar Assad supporters hold up national flags and pictures of Assad as they celebrate at Omayyad Square, in Damascus, Syria, Thursday, May 27, 2021.

Associated Press

New clashes as wildcat miners attack Indigenous in Brazil

By DIANE JEANTET

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) —

Hundreds of wildcat miners attacked police who were trying to halt illegal mining in the Brazilian Amazon region and then raided an Indigenous village, setting houses on fire, federal prosecutors in the northern state of Para reported.

The clashes came days after a Supreme Court justice ordered the government to protect Indigenous populations threatened in recent weeks by illegal miners who appear to have been emboldened by support for their industry from President Jair Bolsonaro.

The state prosecutor's office said miners tried to block a federal police operation by closing off entries to the municipality of Jacareacanga on Wednesday and trying to raid a police base where heavy equipment for the operation was kept.

Hours later, miners raided a village of the Mundurucu people and set several houses on fire, including one that belonged to a prominent mining critic and indigenous activist, Maria Leusa Mundurucu.

The attack followed clashes farther north in Roraima state, where miners in mo-



In this March 22, 1998 file photo, Yanomami children stand arm in arm in the village of Demini in the Amazon jungle, Brazil.

Associated Press

torboats have repeatedly attacked and threatened a riverside Yanomami settlement known as Palimiu. There, miners also clashed with federal officials investigating the incidents. Júnior Hekurari Yanomami, president of a Yanomami association, told The Associated Press that two of the group's children drowned while fleeing during a particularly violent confrontation May 10 that also resulted in three miners being killed. Federal prosecutors in Roraima have not been able to confirm any of the deaths, but said a police investigation was underway. Clashes around the Palimiu community have intensified since April 24, when Yanomami men took fuel and

some equipment from wildcat miners they accused of encroaching on their land, Hekurari and state prosecutors said.

Hekurari said miners have been driving their motorboats past the village almost daily, shouting threats and sometimes firing their guns. "People aren't sleeping properly. They are very tired," Hekurari said in a Zoom call from Palimiu. He said Yanomami men keep watch each night.

He alleged that miners have killed several people and raped women and girls — allegations not confirmed by federal prosecutors in the state, who said they were investigating.

Bolsonaro on Thursday was less than 100 kilometers

(60 miles) from the vast Yanomami reserve to inaugurate a small wooden bridge along a federal highway that runs near a rich deposit of the mineral niobium that he has often touted as a potential economic boon for Brazil.

The conservative president has been outspoken about his desire to legalize mining in Indigenous territories something not allowed under Brazil's constitution and to promote development in the Amazon.

"It isn't fair to want to criminalize the prospector in Brazil," Bolsonaro told supporters outside the presidential palace May 14, according to the newspaper Estado de S. Paulo. "People wearing suits and ties give their guesses about everything that's happening in rural areas."

Such comments have encouraged miners, say federal prosecutors, environmental and Indigenous rights activists.

"There is a feeling of impunity in the country, that those who invade won't be penalized," said Juliana Batista, a lawyer who works at the Socio-Environmental Institute, an advocacy group.

The institute says some 20,000 illegal miners are sus-

pected of working within the Yanomami Indigenous Territory, which is Brazil's largest Indigenous reserve and roughly the size of Portugal. Some 27,000 Indigenous people live on that land. Supreme Court Justice Luís Roberto Barroso this week ordered the federal government to "immediately adopt all necessary measures to protect the life, health and safety of indigenous populations" in Yanomami and Mundurucu territory. He also accused the government for "recalcitrance and lack of transparency" in ensuring the health and safety of Indigenous groups.

A March report published by two Indigenous associations, which used satellite imagery and flyovers, complained that the "unusual proximity" of some mining sites to Yanomami communities tends to fuel conflict. Alisson Marugal, a prosecutor in Roraima state who has investigated clashes on Yanomami land, said from his office in the state capital of Boa Vista that illegal mining has brought prostitution, disease, drug and alcohol abuse and the loss of traditional ways of life.

"If nothing is done, conflicts with miners could lead to massacres," he said. □

Spain criticized for unequally priced 'equality stamps'

By BARRY HATTON and ALICIA LEÓN

Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Spain's postal service is feeling a backlash from its attempt to highlight racial inequality.

State-owned Correos España this week issued a set of four stamps in different skin-colored tones. The darker the stamp, the lower the price. The lightest color costs 1.60 euros (\$1.95). The darkest one costs 0.70 euros (\$0.85). The postal service calls them "Equality Stamps" and introduced them on the anniversary of George Floyd being killed by a police officer in Minneapolis. It said the stamps "reflect an unfair and painful reality that shouldn't be allowed" and that every letter or parcel sent with them would "send a message against racial inequality."

The campaign was launched during European Diversity Month in collaboration with Spain's national SOS Racism Fed-

eration, a nonprofit group, and featured a 60-second video with Spanish hip-hop star and activist El Chojín.

But while the goal of Correos España was to "shine a light on racial inequality and promote diversity, inclusion and equal rights," critics are accusing the company of having a tin ear for racial issues and misreading the sentiment of Black people in Spain.

Antumi Toasijé, a historian who heads the government's Council for the Elimination of Racial or Ethnic Discrimination, urged the postal service to stop selling the stamps.

"A campaign that outrages those it claims to defend is always a mistake," he tweeted.

The main thrust of the public criticism was that the darker stamps have a lower value, giving the impression that a light skin color is worth more. □



This photo released by Spain's postal service Correos on Friday May 28, 2021, shows a set of four stamps to signify different skin-colored tones.

Associated Press

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Pering's Vice President for International Operation Alberto Perret Gentil: "With us you stay close to the ocean to live your dream"

ORANJESTAD — We interviewed Pering's Vice President for International Operation Alberto Perret Gentil from his apartment at Blue Residences.

The Perret Group has been in real estate development in Aruba for quite some time now. How do you see the real estate market in Aruba moving forward?

Pering is a 70 year old company founded by our father and a close friend back in 1950 and this is our 20th year anniversary in Aruba. We feel nowadays like Arubans and are very thankful to Aruba and its people for welcoming us when we had to move part of our business from our native Venezuela. Irwin my brother has been at the helm of the company for some 35 years and I have been responsible for the Aruba operation since I moved here with my family 14 years ago.

Going back to your question. Aruba is a two tier market; the tourist market and the local market.



The tourist real estate market is booming because many people from the USA and Canada learned how to work from afar; from their

dream destination via Zoom or Microsoft Teams. It has been the best year of our history sales wise. We expect prices on this segment to go up given the high demand and also the increase in construction prices of 15%-20% worldwide. Prices in the US already increased and Aruba's are still lagging. We are seeing also a new trend of people looking for villas and larger formats like 3BRs, 4BRs and Penthouses with one of the rooms turned into a home office now that they want to spend more time "workationing" from here.

Regarding the Aruban local market we expect more supply coming as some people unfortunately won't be able to pay their mortgaged loans given the economic hardships of the last year not allowing allow prices to increase.

But there is a moratorium by the Government on condominium developments.

Since December 2018. I personally think is not warranted. I have heard there are 1000 condos on the pipeline since we got here in 2001, but the reality is different. Look around how many have been built since or how many are currently under construction, 70?, 100 tops?. If you compare the number of vacation condominiums of for example Miami, Puerto Rico or Turks & Caycos vis a vis hotel/timeshare rooms Aruba has proportionately way less. And condominiums are great for the economy; its GDP, in general targeting high income individuals that spend on the island, pay its taxes in addition to the 6% transfer tax on purchase price they must paid to the Government and with very

little if any pressure on more immigration.

Why did you choose to live in Blue if you are also the developer of Oceania, Azure and Harbour House.

Each project has its own magic; Oceania has Eagle Beach, one of the very best in the world, Harbour House amazing city and ocean views and the downtown living experience and in Azure I like the lobby/restaurant and pool areas.

Don't tell anyone but Blue is my favorite!! I like the expansive landscaped areas and the views toward Eagle Beach from my terrace. It has a more tranquil, private and a more easygoing ambiance. We just installed a new whirlpool, will soon commence works on the Prikichi Lounge at the lobby area and hopefully will finally get the permit for the beach bar across the street by the name of "Laama", an exclusive beach gathering space with tapas and drinks by Chef Urvin Croes from the Dejavu Group.

Also worth mentioning Infini, competing for the best restaurant in Aruba with Lima Bistro, soon to open at Harbour House. A new spa operator, state of the art fitness center, tennis and beach tennis facilities among others.

But lately we see many penthouses for sale?

That is correct and a great opportunity by the way. Our original owners were mostly wealthy Venezuelans. Many recently moved their permanent residence to Europe and the US and cannot enjoy their "weekend getaway". And currently Venezuelans have restrictions to enter Aruba and thus rather sell. I bought my PH in a resale recently.

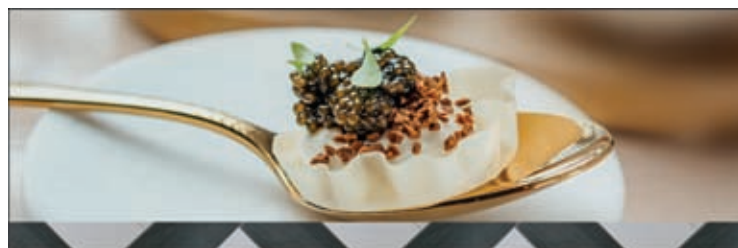
Large format units are selling like hotcakes in Aruba, people that decided to work from their dream destination and with the best internet in the Caribbean. Workation is here to stay. I personally love the interior design of Blue Residences 3BRs or 5 BRs penthouses, its big balconies overlooking the ocean where we gather with friends and family almost weekly for BBQ or paella, its vaulted ceilings and double the ocean views as it has two levels.

What keeps you busy these days?

Working on a new development opportunity we hope to announce shortly and staying busy with opening HarbourWalk, the ocean front retail area on Harbour House as well as re launching the "Pa Amor di Nos Aruba" PANA Foundation, our social responsibility arm. Should find more time to spend with wife and kids though.

Any final tip for a person looking to buy a second home in Aruba?

Stay close to the ocean!! ☐



infini
by Urvin Croes

Taste limitless possibilities at Infini, where Chef Urvin Croes and his team explores without boundaries and steps with both feet outside of the box to create his most sensational dishes yet. This meticulously designed restaurant located inside Blue Residences on scenic Eagle Beach is a chef's table concept with limited seating where diners are able to interact with the staff and other guests alike throughout the evening.

8 Courses You Will Never Forget



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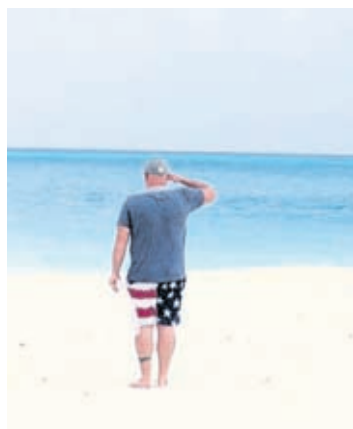
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Memorial Day 2021 at Costa Linda Beach Resort

EAGLE BEACH — On Memorial Day morning in 2002 four US armed forces veterans, their friends and families gathered on Eagle Beach at Costa Linda. The purpose of the gathering was to honor all those who had paid the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country. The simple ceremony has since become an annual event and will take place once again on **Monday May 31, 2021 at Costa Linda Beach Resort.**



ple, solemn, and apolitical. We've kept it solemn for obvious reasons, simple because of the ages of some of our vets who might find it difficult to stand in the sun too long, and apolitical because we were/are all visitors in Aruba and understood that the raising of the American flag or the singing or playing of the Stars Spangled banner might of-

fend some island residents. We also soon realized that we had attracted veterans from other nations — Holland, Aruba, and South Africa to mention a few. So in fairness to all, we thought that large national banners and anthems would be inappropriate. However, we encourage participants to wear any uniforms or national symbols they wish to wear.

Veterans will gather on the beach at 10:00 AM May 31, 2021 to form The Detail. We ask that viewers leave the area of the beach clear between The Detail and the surf. There will be a call to attention followed by a reading of the poem We Stand by the Sea (anonymous) as a memorial wreath of flowers will



be placed in the surf. There will then be a reading of a verse from The Fallen by R.L. Binyon followed by the playing of Taps and the presentation of arms by the Detail. The Detail will then be dismissed.

All those wishing to join us

on Memorial Day May 31, 2021 are welcomed. We will convene on the beach at 10:00 AM. Costa Linda Vets, families and friends. There will be coffee, juice and donuts provided by the Costa Linda Beach Resort. □

Dutch visitors honored as Goodwill Ambassadors

NOORD — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The symbolic Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

This time Richardson had the opportunity to meet and honor **Mr. Jan & Mrs. Hermy Van der Velde** at their wonderful apartment in the Noor district of Aru-

ba. Mr. and Mrs. Velde are from the Netherlands traveling far away from home! This lovely couple stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, its hospitality and Aruba's warm and friendly people that became like family to them!

Richardson presented the certificate to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □



Defense is preparing for hurricane season on the Windward Islands



WILLEMSTAD — The Ministry of Defense will conduct a hurricane relieve exercise on the Windward Islands from May 26 to June 5. Practicing the logistical movements of personnel and equipment is central

to this. Defense trains this so that the military can be deployed quickly and effectively in the event of an actual hurricane threat.

After the relocations to Sint Maarten, Saba and Sint Eustatius, small activities will

take place spread over the different islands. The units will also use their stay to become more familiar with all three islands and the relevant partners based on them, such as government

organizations, non-governmental organizations and companies that play an important role in emergency relief. There is no other major exercise scenario taking place on the Windward Islands.

A so-called pre-detachment will fly from Curaçao via Aruba to Sint Maarten by means of the Coast Guard patrol plane (DASH 8) on Thursday 27 May to facilitate the arrival of the "main force". The majority of the participating soldiers travel by charter flight or ship from Curaçao via Aruba to Sint Maarten, or by charter flight from the Netherlands to Sint Maarten. Two small detachments travel to Saba and St. Eustatius by means of the Coast Guard patrol aircraft. Performing all moves is the main goal of this hurricane exercise. The vast majority of the 250 soldiers are already present in the Caribbean and consist of units of the Royal Netherlands Army (Com-

pany in the West), the Marine Corps (Marine Squadron Carib) and naval vessel HNLMS Pelican. In addition, a marine detachment is permanently present on Sint Maarten. By training on the Windward Islands, it is possible, in the event of an actual hurricane threat, to be able to provide emergency aid and rescue people in need immediately after the passage. In such a situation, the military can also support the civil authorities and contribute to public order and safety.

COVID

The (travel) limitations that the COVID-19 pandemic entails has been expressly taken into account in the preparation and implementation of this exercise. Only personnel with a negative Corona test are allowed to participate in the exercise. All additional rules of the governments of Sint Maarten, Saba or Sint Eustatius are complied with. □

Covid-19: the status on Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Rules and protocols are being reviewed and evaluated on a daily basis and adapted as per current situation by a crisis team, in order to protect each and every one visiting and residing our island.

Current numbers

There are currently 70 active Covid cases on the island. 53 residents and 17 non-residents. There are 5 persons hospitalized but none of them is in the Intensive care unit. 107 persons lost their battle against the Covid virus of which 1 of them is a non-resident. A total of 163.514 persons have been tested of which 112.540 were tested at the airport. 62% of the total population have been vaccinated. Aiming for 85% of the total population by end of June 2021.

Measurement by the Government of Aruba

Valid as of Tuesday May 25th, 2021 until further notice.

- There will be no more curfew.
- Closing time for businesses is 11pm.
- Casino's are allowed to stay open till 1am
- Max eight (8) per table indoors & max ten (10) per table outdoors (excluding children under the age of 12) Tables must be at least 1.5 meters apart.
- During live performance 5 musicians are allowed to perform on stage.
- No musical events that are intended to attract customers.



- Background music is allowed/No dancing.
- Hotels and lodgings are exempted from the closing time, BUT only to serve their registered guests.
- There is no more public gathering ban but people must still wear masks and social distance when required.
- Alcohol is no longer restricted on public beaches, but alcohol at parking lots and roads are not allowed.
- There will be no more ban on public beaches after 7.30pm, however ban on parking lots are still in effect after 7.30pm.
- Masks are still mandatory and must be worn at all times indoors and when using public transportation.

More information on travel and health requirements can be found on www.aruba.com. □

The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island

PALM BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor one of Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as a Distinguished Visitor of Aruba. The Distinguished visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

The honoree was the lovely Mrs. Laurie Good from Boston, USA!

This lovely lady stated that

she loves the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches, its safety, the exceptional hospitality at the The Mill Resort, and Aruba's warm and friendly people whom became like family to them.

Richardson together with the representatives of The Mill Resort Aruba Resort presented the certificate to the honoree, handed over some presents and also thanked her for choosing Aruba as her favorite vacation destination and as her home-away-from-home. □



Female CEOs saw ranks dwindle in 2020; median pay fell 2%

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL

AP Personal Finance Writer
Most of the women running the biggest U.S. companies saw their pay increase last year, even as the pandemic hammered the economy and many of their businesses.

Despite those gains, however, the median pay for female chief executives actually fell in 2020. Already a small group, they saw several high-profile women leave their ranks last year. That means changes in pay for only a few helped skew the overall figures, highlighting just how slow diversity has been to catch on in Corporate America's corner offices.

Of the 342 CEOs in the AP's and Equilar's compensation survey of S&P 500 companies, only 16 were women. That's down from 20 a year earlier, as CEOs like IBM's Virginia Rometty left their posts. The survey includes only CEOs who have served at least two full fiscal years at their companies, in order to avoid the distortions of big sign-on bonuses. The companies must have filed proxy statements between Jan. 1 and April 30.

The majority of female CEOs in this year's survey saw a raise in compensation: 81% of them (13 of 16), versus 60% of all male CEOs in the survey. But Duke Energy CEO Lynn Good saw



In this July 16, 2019, file photo General Motors CEO Mary Barra speaks during the opening of their contract talks with the United Auto Workers in Detroit.

Associated Press

a nearly 3% decline in compensation to \$14.3 million. She's right in the middle of the pay scale among the survey's women CEOs, so that helped set the median pay for them last year at \$13.6 million. Median means half made more than that level, and half made less. That level marks a 1.9% drop from the median that those same female CEOs earned a year before. And it compares with a median of \$12.6 million for all male CEOs in this year's survey, which is 5.2% higher than the median for them from a year earlier. The overall median for the

survey was \$12.7 million. While the number of women in the survey dropped last year, experts say change is happening, just very slowly as companies have failed to properly recognize and prepare more women for the role. "It's a slow process," said Lorraine Hariton, President & CEO of Catalyst, a non-profit that aims to advance women in the workplace. "But the reasons are we are still dealing with cultures embedded with unconscious bias and building the pipeline of women CEOs takes time." Lisa Su, CEO of chipmaker

Advanced Micro Devices, topped the list with a compensation package worth \$27.1 million. That included a base salary of just over \$1 million, a cash bonus worth \$2.5 million and stock and option awards worth nearly \$23.5 million. AMD's stock nearly doubled in 2020 after being the top-performing stock in the S&P 500 the prior two years. A year ago, Su was the highest paid CEO in the Equilar analysis, man or woman, with a pay package worth \$58.5 million, largely due to stock grants worth \$53.2 million.

General Motors CEO Mary Barra ranked second among women with a compensation package worth \$23.2 million. And Northrop Grumman's CEO Kathy Warden was third with pay valued at \$19.7 million.

Overall, many CEOs took a cut in salary last year because of the pandemic, but got more in stock awards and other compensation. Pay for female CEOs largely followed a similar pattern but because of the small sample size it is difficult to draw conclusions as any one minor adjustment can skew the results.

There are some signs of change, with more women in top management. JPMorgan Chase recently placed two women in roles where they could potentially succeed CEO Jamie Dimon. And executive recruiting firms say they see increased interest from companies, particularly as research shows that having a more diverse company leads to better results.

"It's just good business," said Jane Stevenson, vice chair at organizational consulting firm Korn Ferry. "It's no longer a 'Should more women be in business?'" More diverse pipelines produce better outcomes. As more businesses prove it can be done over time, then positive peer pressure kicks in." □

EU gives TikTok a month to respond to consumer complaints

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Commission said on Friday it has given the Chinese-owned video app TikTok one month to answer complaints from a European consumer group over its commercial practices.

The EU's executive arm said it has started discussions involving the social media platform and the national consumer authorities following an alert launched earlier this year by the European Consumer Organisation (BEUC) about alleged breaches of consumers' rights. The Commission said some

contractual terms in TikTok's policies could be considered misleading and confusing for consumers,

adding that concerns relating to issues including hidden marketing and advertising strategies target-

ing children were raised. TikTok is hugely popular with teenagers and young adults who use it to post and watch short-form videos.

In February, the BEUC filed a complaint with the European Commission and the network of consumer protection authorities against TikTok. It argued that several terms in TikTok's 'Terms of Service' are unfair and said the platform failed to protect children and teenagers from hidden advertising and potentially harmful content.

"The current pandemic has further accelerated

digitalization," said Didier Reynders, the Commissioner for Justice. "This has brought new opportunities but it has also created new risks, in particular for vulnerable consumers. In the European Union, it is prohibited to target children and minors with disguised advertising such as banners in videos. The dialogue we are launching today should support TikTok in complying with EU rules to protect consumers."

TikTok said it complies with local laws and regulations governing ads for young people. □



The TikTok app logo appears in Tokyo on Sept. 28, 2020.

Associated Press

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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14 Might

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19 Revolutionary mercenary

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27 Implore

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31 Bruins legend

32 Stirrup setting

33 Lady of Spain

35 Enormous

38 Like some numerals

39 Famed fur tycoon

DOWN

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3 Egg dish

4 Fatigue

5 Smear'd liberally

6 Phone download

7 Uncle, in Acapulco

8 Michener book

9 Like some garages

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Yesterday's answer

10 Sophia 27 Child

of "Two of the Women" 1950s

16 Lines 28 Straying through circles funds

20 Moved 30 Kicked off sinuously 34 Flaring

21 Down star

24 Lingerie 36 Auction bid

25 Commend 37 Take a stab at

26 Give fizz to

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5-29

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-29

CRYPTOQUOTE

J ' C Y P S Y G H C Y U J Z R Y

A V C X E Y A U E L D Z V E V N G X K X I

D X P P H C X S M X I X J ' K X E X X Z .

— E I P P I X M V P I N Y G

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IF A MAN IS DESTINED TO DROWN, HE WILL DROWN EVEN IN A SPOONFUL OF WATER — YIDDISH PROVERB

Study seeks origins of ghost nets that haunt Hawaii's shores



Ghost nets and other debris sit in a shed at Hawaii Pacific University's Center for Marine Debris Research on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 in Kaneohe, Hawaii.

Associated Press

By CALEB JONES

Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — "Ghost nets" from unknown origins drift among the Pacific's currents, threatening sea creatures and littering shorelines with the entangled remains of what they kill.

Lost or discarded at sea, sometimes decades ago, this fishing gear continues to wreak havoc on marine life and coral reefs in Hawaii.

Now, researchers are doing detective work to trace this harmful debris back to fisheries and manufacturers and that takes extensive, in-depth analysis on tons of ghost nets.

The biggest concern is that derelict gear keeps killing fish and other wildlife such as endangered Hawaiian monk seals, seabirds and turtles long after it's gone adrift, said Drew McWhirter, a graduate student at Hawaii Pacific University and one of the study's lead researchers.

"These nets bulldoze over our reefs before they hit shore," McWhirter added. "They leave a path of destruction, pulling coral heads out, and can cause a lot of ecological damage."

Ghost nets foul oceans throughout the world, but the Hawaiian Islands with the Great Pacific Garbage Patch to the east and another gyre of floating trash to the west are an epicenter for marine waste. Past efforts to identify origins of nets have proven difficult because debris comes from so many countries and nets have few, if any, unique identifying marks or features. Experts believe many nets are lost accidentally, but boats occasionally ditch nets to avoid prosecution when fishing illegally. Other fishermen cut away portions of damaged nets instead of returning them

to shore. The ghost net study is being supervised by Hawaii Pacific University's Center for Marine Debris Research co-director, Jennifer Lynch, a research biologist with the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

"We're going to have a very challenging time ... trying to identify it back to its source," said Lynch. "And if we fail, ... that's going to be increased evidence for policymakers to see the importance of gear marking and potentially bring those kinds of regulations to the front."

For Lynch, it's not about pointing fingers. Rather, she hopes the study, which will be presented to the fishing industry first, will help develop new ways to prevent damage to the marine environment.

"We're doing this study in a very forensic way where we're gathering as much evidence as we possibly can so that we can present the best, most accurate story," Lynch said.

The crew gets ghost nets from three sources: The main Hawaiian Islands, the fishing grounds of the Hawaii longline tuna fleet that often snags nets and the shores of the uninhabited Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, which are part of Papahānaumokuākea National Marine Monument. An April cleanup expedition to Papahānaumokuākea the largest protected environment in the United States and a UNESCO World Heritage Site brought back nearly 50 tons (45 metric tons) of nets and other lost gear.

In a shed on the university's campus, researchers pull apart bundles of fishing gear, noting the relationships between items.

Then samples are taken to a lab for analysis. □

Microsoft: SolarWinds hackers target 150 orgs with phishing



In this April 1, 2014, file photo, the headquarters for the U.S. Agency for International Development is seen in Washington.

By **FRANK BAJAK**
AP Technology Writer

BOSTON (AP) — The state-backed Russian cyber spies behind the SolarWinds hacking campaign launched a targeted spear-phishing assault on U.S. and foreign government agencies and think tanks this week using an email marketing account of the U.S. Agency for International Development, Microsoft says. The effort targeted about 3,000 email accounts at more than 150 different organizations, at least a quarter of them involved in international development, humanitarian and human rights work, Microsoft Vice President Tom Burt said in a blog post late Thursday.

It did not say what portion of the attempts may have led to successful intrusions but said in a separate technical blog post that most were blocked by automated systems that marked them as spam. "We're also in the process of notifying all of our customers who

have been targeted," Burt said.

The cybersecurity firm Volexity, which also tracked the campaign but has less visibility into email systems than Microsoft, said in a post that relatively low detection rates of the phishing emails suggest the attacker was "likely having some success in breaching targets."

Burt said the campaign appeared to be a continuation of multiple efforts by the Russian hackers to "target government agencies involved in foreign policy as part of intelligence gathering efforts."

He said the targets spanned at least 24 countries.

Separately, the prominent cybersecurity firm FireEye said it has been tracking "multiple waves" of related spear-phishing by the hackers from Russia's SVR foreign intelligence agency since March — preceding the USAID campaign — that used a variety of lures including diplomatic notes and invitations from embassies.

The hackers gained access to USAID's account at Constant Contact, an email marketing service, Microsoft said. The authentic-looking phishing emails dated May 25 purport to contain new information

on 2020 election fraud claims and include a link to malware that allows the hackers to "achieve persistent access to compromised machines."

USAID and Constant Contact provided no additional detail on how the hackers gained access. USAID spokeswoman Pooja Jhunjhunwala said Friday that a forensic investigation was ongoing and the agency was working with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. Constant Contact spokeswoman Kristen Andrews called it an "isolated incident," with the impacted accounts temporarily disabled. □

Associated Press



Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
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Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

Editors

Liza Koolman (Management assistant)
Richard Brooks
Linda Reijnders

Sales

Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto
Pilar Flores

Columnists

Anthony Croes
Joris Zantvoort
Thais Franken

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com

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San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel. 524 8833

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Oranjestad:

Oduber Tel. 582 1780

San Nicolas:

San Nicolas Tel. 584 5712

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

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In a punk 'Cruella,' dogs play second fiddle to the designs

By LINDSEY BAHR

AP Film Writer

German punk princess Nina Hagen isn't the most obvious inspiration for a Disney movie, but "Cruella" is also not your typical Disney movie. The new live-action origin story about the black-and-white-haired cartoon supervillain is less about a maniacal dalmatian-skinner than an aspiring designer with a punk sensibility out to disrupt the stuffy ways of the past in 1970s London.

Departments like hair and makeup and costume design work overtime to blend into the fabric of a film. But in "Cruella," the story itself gives them the spotlight. So director Craig Gillespie and star and producer Emma Stone enlisted some of the best in the business to help: Two-time Oscar winning costume designer Jenny Beavan, who has mastered everything from Merchant Ivory period films like "A Room with a View" to the post-apocalyptic looks of "Mad Max: Fury Road," and BAFTA-winning hair and makeup designer Nadia Stacey, who transformed Stone into an 18th century social climber in "The Favourite."

"I never thought I would do it. It was never a film that would come up in my range of stuff because I'm not really into fashion," said Beavan. "Of course, I was around in the '70s.



This image released by Disney shows Emma Stone in a scene from "Cruella." Costumes for the film were designed by Oscar winning designer Jenny Beavan.

Associated Press

This film and script triggered my memory of what it was like." With the script and Gillespie's comprehensive mood board and soundtrack in mind, Beavan and her team set off both designing originals and scouring London's vintage stores for real pieces and things that had at least the spirit of the '70s, when the buttoned up styles of Dior and Balenciaga were giving way to the likes of Vivienne Westwood with zippers and holes everywhere.

"It was just really fun," Beavan said. "Every time we produced something new, (Stone) seemed to take to

it like a duck to water and make it work. She is absolutely and without a doubt, totally fabulous."

One of the final looks that stood out for Beavan was Cruella's military-styled jacket paired with a big skirt and Doc Martens.

Stacey said she was given one rule for Cruella: The black and white hair needed to be on the same sides as in the cartoon. Anything else was fair game.

"I sort of went at it with a punk spirit, like, you know, I'm just going to do this and go for it and see what happens," Stacey said. "The punk revolution was such a change in fashion and mu-

sic and makeup and hair. It does really kind of follow the narrative of Cruella as well."

Stacey found inspiration not only in Nina Hagen but Blondie frontwoman Debbie Harry, who she said often paired edgy stylings with pink lipsticks.

"That sparked an idea that I could make stuff punky or messed up but keep a beauty element to it, which makes it not just period and punk, it gives it a fresh take and makes it modern," Stacey said. "So if you are doing a really graphic, harsh (look), you can do a softer beauty lip with it. Or if she's hanging off a garbage

truck, she can still have pink and blue jewels that contradict with the situation. There's that kind of juxtaposition, a real clash of things that I tried to keep in mind when creating."

One of Stacey's most striking looks (and one that many beauty bloggers have already recreated and sent to her) features Cruella with a black spray paint mask across her eyes with the words "The Future" stenciled out. The font, she said, was inspired by a Sex Pistols album cover.

"I put it to Emma, wondering if I was mad, and she was like, 'No let's do it,'" Stacey said.

Stone, she said, was game for anything. She didn't have to dye her hair for the role, but Stacey said she would have in a heartbeat. "I weighed in a bit, but there were geniuses that were creating her look," Stone said. "Putting on all of that really did make you feel like Cruella de Vil."

The whole endeavor was an epic undertaking with a reported \$200 million budget. There were some 277 costumes for the principal cast, 47 changes for Cruella/Estella and 33 for Emma Thompson's Baroness.

"Every week I'd come in and my (assistant director) would be like, 'Oh, we've got a big week this week,' and I said, 'Every week is a big week.' We have four to six hundred extras and balls and galas," Gillespie said. "We were just racing all the time."

One gala scene alone required 152 wigs and dressing 149 members of the supporting cast. Another pivotal party had 80 dresses and 88 wigs, each of which required four hours of prep.

"I've never seen such attention to detail before," said actor Kirby Howell-Baptiste, who plays Anita Darling. "It also just kind of felt like a party, like, the scene where we were outside and essentially, like, at a rock concert felt just like that."

"Cruella" is currently playing in theaters and available to rent on Disney+. □



Singer Britney Spears makes an appearance in front of the Park MGM hotel-casino in Las Vegas on Oct. 18, 2018.

Associated Press

By MARK KENNEDY

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Plans are afoot to put some old hit songs by Britney Spears

into a stage musical about woke princesses, and the hope is that the result isn't "Toxic." The Shakespeare Theatre Company

Fractured fairy tale musical to use Britney Spears music

in Washington, D.C. announced Thursday that it will stage "Once Upon a One More Time," featuring Spears' tunes, including "Oops!... I Did It Again," "Lucky," "Stronger" and "Toxic." The musical will have an original story written by Jon Hartmere about classic fairy tale princesses — Cinderella, Snow White and Little Mermaid, among them — who are transformed after reading "The Feminine Mystique," a landmark feminist text.

"Once Upon a One More Time" begins performances at Sidney Harman Hall on Nov. 29. It represents a significant pivot for The Shakespeare Theatre Company, known for its more stately offerings. The temptation to use already proven, popular songs to fuel a musical is an old one and on Broadway has lately led to shows with music from The Temptations, The Go Go's, Tina Turner and Alanis Morissette. □

Reid: Chiefs QB Mahomes 'full-go' during voluntary workouts

By DAVE SKRETTA

AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) —

Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes has been "full-go" during the first week of voluntary workouts, three months after surgery for turf toe and a full month ahead of the original schedule.

Chiefs coach Andy Reid said Thursday that Mahomes has been "doing everything" while players worked out in shorts at the team's facility near Arrowhead Stadium. Players aren't allowed to wear pads or hit, but the very fact that Mahomes is back on the practice field bodes well for his availability for next month's mandatory minicamp.

"He's still working with (team trainer) Rick Burkholder and that toe, so we'll utilize this more as more of a passing camp," Reid said. "We don't run the ball much in this thing, so he's been good in that way and his toe is doing well."

Mahomes was hobbled by the toe throughout the playoffs, though he never acknowledged the severity of the injury.

And his inability to move coupled with a makeshift offensive line made him a ripe target for Tampa Bay in

the Super Bowl. Mahomes, who had indicated last month that he was ahead of schedule in his recovery, has been joined at OTAs by just about everybody on the roster.

That robust attendance stands in stark contrast to a number of teams, including the AFC West rival Broncos, that exercised their rights in the collective bargaining agreement to skip voluntary workouts.

"We love having the guys back on grass. That's a good thing," Reid said. "It's hard to teach the fundamentals of the game virtually. It's great we have the tools, I'm not saying that, but it's great to teach the fundamentals on the field." The extra on-field workouts are especially helpful for Kansas City given huge changes to the roster, particularly along the offensive line, where not a single player that started in the Super Bowl could be a starter Week 1.

Left tackle Orlando Brown Jr., who was acquired in a trade with Baltimore, and right guard Kyle Long, who was lured out of retirement with a free-agent deal, are among those who have been working with the first-team line.

"Especially up front and maybe for the quarter-



Kansas City Chiefs head coach Andy Reid watches practice during the NFL football team's organized team activities Thursday, May 27, 2021, in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

backs as well, it's important to get that live timing against a real body, a real defensive end," Brown said. "I think I'm at a point in my career where these types of offseasons and being able to practice against live personnel, it helps me a lot. I'm able to focus on things I may not have been able to focus on last year." In other news, All-Pro safety Tyrann Mathieu said he's not worried about whether the Chiefs will agree with him on a long-term deal with him,

even though he's entering the final year of a \$42 million, three-year contract. In a since-deleted tweet, Mathieu had indicated that an extension was "probably not" happening in Kansas City. "The negotiation process is tough on anybody, especially a player," Mathieu said, "but like I said, I try not to focus on it too much. I think I'm a fairly optimistic guy. I try my best to look out the bright side of the window. This is my third franchise so I understand

the business. I've grown enough to understand it. I'm mature enough to understand it." That doesn't mean Chiefs general manager Brett Veach has given up on signing one of his defense's premier players. "Last year we were able to get a lot of our veteran players done during the summer," Veach said shortly after the NFL draft. "Enough can't be said about Tyrann and how we feel about him and his role both on and off the field." □

Yates win on Giro 19th stage only dents Bernal's lead

ALPE DI MERA, Italy (AP) —

British cyclist Simon Yates attacked on the steep ascent to the finish to win the 19th stage of the Giro d'Italia on Friday and made only a dent on Egan Bernal's overall lead with two days remaining.

Yates, who rides for Team BikeExchange, attacked with more than six kilometers (four miles) to go and held off the field on the double-digit gradient to the Alpe di Mera finish.

João Almeida was second at the end of the 166-kilometer (103-mile) leg from Abbiategrosso, 11 seconds behind Yates.

Bernal decided not to respond to Yates and merely to manage the gap; the Colombian finished third,

28 seconds behind.

Yates remained third overall, 2 minutes, 49 seconds behind Bernal, who actually increased his lead slightly over second-placed Dami-

ano Caruso to 2:29.

"Today, I took one step further towards that final win," said Bernal, also the 2019 Tour de France champion. "Now I'm confident ahead



Britain's Simon Yates climbs during the 19th stage of the Giro d'Italia cycling race, from Abbiategrosso to Alpe di Mera, Italy, Friday, May 28, 2021.

Associated Press

of tomorrow's stage, which I'll enjoy riding at a higher altitude. I want to arrive at (Sunday's) time trial with some extra energy."

There is another day in the high mountains on Saturday and Yates and his team hinted they would try and attack early rather than simply protect his podium place.

"I will try. Its going to be difficult. The gap is still massive," Yates said. "I only gained 30 seconds today and I still need nearly three minutes.

"If I have legs I will try but it will be difficult."

Yates led the race for 13 days in 2018, the same year he won the Spanish Vuelta. He had to abandon last year's Giro after testing

positive for COVID-19.

The penultimate stage on Saturday has been given the maximum difficulty rating of five stars.

The 164-kilometer (102-mile) route from Verbania to Valle Spluga-Alpe Motta includes more than 4,200 meters of vertical gain and three top-category climbs including the final ascent to another summit finish.

The Giro finishes on Sunday in Milan with an individual time trial.

"For me, the most important thing is to have the maglia rosa (leader's pink jersey) in Milan," Bernal said.

"When I have the legs, I like to attack.

But now there's one rider stronger than me and it's Simon Yates. □

Bucks chase sweep of Heat on 4-game NBA playoff Saturday

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

MIAMI (AP) — It's been done four times in the Stanley Cup playoffs, most recently by the eventual Stanley Cup champion Los Angeles Kings in 2014. Done once in baseball, the Boston Red Sox pulling it off against the New York Yankees on their way to winning the 2004 World Series. There's been a few instances of it in the minor leagues, too.

Technically, a 3-0 series deficit is not insurmountable.

Except in the NBA.

The first clinching opportunity of this year's NBA playoffs has arrived, and history says the Milwaukee Bucks can go ahead and start prepping for the next round. They lead the Miami Heat 3-0 in their Eastern Conference first-round series, with Game 4 set to start a postseason quadrupleheader on Saturday.

"We're going to stay focused," Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo said. "The job's not done."

Also Saturday: Denver will aim to take a 3-1 series lead when it plays Game 4 in Portland, Philadelphia goes to Washington seeking a 3-0 lead as that series resumes after a fan throwing popcorn on injured Wizards guard Russell Westbrook became the story of Game 2, and Mike Conley plays his 29th playoff game in Memphis — but first as an opponent — when Utah visits the Grizzlies for Game 3 of that knotted matchup. "Being up 2-1 is great," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said after his team won in Portland on Thursday night to regain control of that matchup. "It's the same situation they were in. They came into our building, won Game 1 and we were able to even it up. And they're going to come out ultra-aggressive because they're not going to want to go back to Denver down 3-1. So, we're going to get everything, the kitchen sink, you name it, come Saturday afternoon."

Teams have held 3-0 series leads in best-of-seven NBA matchups on 140 previous

occasions. A sweep was the result in 87 of those, or 62% of the time; 40 series ended in five games; 10

going to play better," Antetokounmpo said. "They're going to find a way to get a lot of open shots, lot of easy

only then should the Bucks start to worry.

NUGGETS AT TRAIL BLAZERS Denver leads 2-1. Game 4,



Associated Press

ended in six and three even got pushed to a Game 7 — most recently Dallas' victory over Portland in the 2003 first round.

But in all 140 cases, the 3-0 lead held up.

"Bucks are against the wall," Miami center Bam Adebayo said. "It's literally win or go home."

The roles were flipped last season in the East semifinals. Miami led Milwaukee 3-0 in the NBA's restart bubble at Walt Disney World, and the Bucks — even with Antetokounmpo out with an ankle injury — found a way to force Game 5 before the Heat closed out the matchup.

That's Miami's focus right now, Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said: win once and see where it goes.

"You take it one step at a time," Spoelstra said. "Everything can seem overwhelming if you look at the whole big picture. You take it one step at a time. We're capable of playing good enough to win a game and that's all our focus has to be right now."

Antetokounmpo insisted that the Bucks weren't going to relax, even though history says they can.

"In Game 4, Miami's going to come out even tougher,

looks. ... At the end of the day, our focus is on Game 4 and how we can be better."

Saturday's games:

BUCKS AT HEAT

Milwaukee leads 3-0. Game 4, 1:30 p.m. EDT, TNT.

— **NEED TO KNOW:** The Bucks have beaten Miami by at least 29 points three times this season. That's only the second time such a thing has happened to the Heat; Pat Riley and the Los Angeles Lakers beat them three times by at least 32 points in the franchise's inaugural 1988-89 season.

— **KEEP AN EYE ON:** Miami desperately needs some 3's to fall. The Heat were 20 for 50 from beyond the arc in a Game 1 overtime loss; they went 17 for 60 combined in the two blowout losses since.

— **INJURY WATCH:** Bucks G Donte DiVincenzo left Game 3 with what was called a left foot contusion, and it turned out to be much worse. The Bucks said Friday that DiVincenzo will miss the remainder of the season with a torn ligament in his left ankle.

— **PRESSURE IS ON:** Nobody. History says the series is over. Nobody should feel any pressure unless the series gets to Game 6, and

4 p.m. EDT, TNT.

— **NEED TO KNOW:** Through three games, Denver's starters have scored 275 points, Portland's 273. The difference has been the benches. Portland's bench outscored Denver's by 14 in Game 1 and the Blazers won by exactly 14. In Game 2, Denver's bench outscored Portland's by 17; the Nuggets won by 19. And in Game 3, Denver's bench outscored Portland's by five; the Nuggets won by exactly five.

— **KEEP AN EYE ON:** Portland's Damian Lillard is averaging 37.7 points in the series, Denver's Nikola Jokic is averaging 36. The stars are living up to their billing.

— **INJURY WATCH:** Denver's Will Barton (hamstring) still hasn't played since April 23.

— **PRESSURE IS ON:** Portland. The Blazers are 2-10 in their last 12 playoff games and can't reasonably expect to win both a Game 5 and a Game 7 in Denver. It's almost certainly must-win time.

76ERS AT WIZARDS

Philadelphia leads 2-0. Game 3, 7 p.m. EDT, ESPN.

— **NEED TO KNOW:** Ben Simmons (14 points, 12 rebounds, 11.5 assists) is averaging a triple-double

through two games, Tobias Harris and Joel Embiid are averaging a combined 54 points and the 76ers have trailed for about nine minutes out of the 96 played so far. Very businesslike start for the East's No. 1 seed.

— **KEEP AN EYE ON:** Washington's Bradley Beal has 33 points in each of the series' first two games and might be called upon for even more if the Wizards are going to get back into this matchup.

— **INJURY WATCH:** Westbrook's ankle issue is critical to Washington's upset hopes. He didn't practice Friday, got treatment instead and Wizards coach Scott Brooks said the team will "see how he feels" Saturday.

— **PRESSURE IS ON:** Arena security and the referees. Tensions will be high. A repeat of the scene in Philadelphia would be a terrible look for the league.

JAZZ AT GRIZZLIES

Series tied 1-1. Game 3, 9:30 p.m. EDT, ESPN.

— **NEED TO KNOW:** Memphis is playing a home playoff game without Conley on its roster for the first time since May 1, 2006. Conley didn't play in every Memphis postseason game during his years with the Grizzlies, but there's still the obvious irony in how they're back in the playoffs and one of the most beloved players in team history is going to be wearing the opposing uniform.

— **KEEP AN EYE ON:** Memphis' Ja Morant has 73 points in his first two career playoff games (excluding the West play-in game last season, which the NBA doesn't technically count as a postseason contest). Only George Mikan (75) had more.

— **INJURY WATCH:** Jazz G Donovan Mitchell had 25 points in 25-1/2 minutes in Game 2, his first game in nearly six weeks because of an ankle injury.

— **PRESSURE IS ON:** Utah. The Jazz — granted, without Mitchell for that game — struggled to put the Grizzlies away in their only previous trip to Memphis this season. □